

## Public Safety Mission Statement

The Maricopa Public Safety Department exists for the purpose of protecting and serving the people of Maricopa. Vital to this purpose are the values which reflect what the Department believes in as an organization. These beliefs are reflected in the Department's recruiting and selection practices, policies and procedures, training and development, and ultimately, in the actions of its public safety officers in delivering services. Values reflect what the Department considers important and determine the way public safety officers view not only their role, but also the people they serve. Moreover, our values serve as a linkage between the ongoing operations of the Department and the community's ability not only to participate in, but also understand the reason for Public Safety Department strategies. Our operational philosophy is based on being Proactive, Professional and Progressive which we believe are conducive to a professional Public Safety Department.

Above all, we believe that human life is our most precious resource. Therefore, the Department, in all aspects of its operations, will place its highest priority on the protection of life. This belief is manifested in two ways. First, the allocation of resources and the response for demands for service must give top priority to those situations which threaten life. Second, even though society authorizes public safety officers to use deadly force, the use of such force must be thoroughly justified, in compliance with law and Department policy, and employed only as a last resort. We must not only protect life and property and maintain order, but do so in a manner consistent with our democratic form of government. It is incumbent upon each police officer to enforce the law and deliver other public safety services in a manner that not only preserves, but also extends precious American values. We must not only respect but also protect the rights guaranteed to each citizen by the Constitution and our laws.

Logic makes it clear that it is better to prevent a crime than put the resources of the Department into motion after a crime has been committed. This operational response is intended to improve the quality of life for citizens and reduce the fear that is generated by both the reality and perception of crime.

We cannot be successful without the support and involvement of the people we serve. Crime is not solely a public safety problem; it is a community problem. All citizens have an obligation to participate in the maintenance of order, while delegating to the Public Safety Department their collective authority to enforce the law. Moreover, we believe that a collaborative public safety and community effort is needed not only to identify community problems, but also in determining the most appropriate strategies for solving them.

The Public Safety Department is not an entity unto itself. Rather, it is a part of government empowered by, and existing only for the purpose of serving the public, to which it must be accountable. Accountability is a primary consideration in our development of policy and procedure. Accountability also means being open and requires responsiveness to the problems and needs of citizens. In addition, accountability requires the management of public safety resources in the most efficient and cost effective manner.

The role of the professional organization is serving its clients; our role is serving the citizens of Maricopa. A professional organization also adheres to a code of conduct; we have adopted and are guided by the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics. The manner in which the Public Safety Department conducts business, operationally as well as administratively, must be consistent with professionally accepted practices and ideals. It is for this very reason that we have voluntarily sought accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. and the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. The public demands and is entitled to a professional department. That at times we may fall short of our best expectations of ourselves is no reason to settle for less.

Our community invests in us the highest level of trust. We must always be mindful to never violate the public trust. Each member of the Department must recognize that he or she is held to a higher standard than the private citizen. We must also recognize that in addition to representing the Department, we also represent government, the law enforcement profession and each other. Our conduct, both on and off duty, must be beyond reproach.

The quality of any organization is determined by the quality of its members. As we head into the 21st Century, our challenge will be to respond to problems created by rapid social and technological change, while at the same time providing the stability that holds a society together during such periods of uncertainty. Our personnel, present and future, must continue to demonstrate the leadership, dedication, compassion, and uncompromising quest for excellence that has always characterized the Department and that is so crucial to our mission. Our recruitment, selection, and ongoing professional training must and will remain focused on developing a thinking public safety employee who analyzes situations and responds in the appropriate manner consistent with our value system.

Based on these values, we affirm that it is the Mission of the City of Maricopa Public Safety Department.

***"To deliver public safety services proactively, professionally and progressively, in order to resolve community issues and problems and provide for the safety and security of our citizens."***